

**From:** jshansen  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/2/02 8:44am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I wish to express my opinion regarding the Microsoft Anti-trust settlement situation.

My honest opinion is that this trial has proven the lack of integrity now in our court system. There should simply be a rule of law which decides right and wrong and let justice be served. Opinions are expressed constitutionally through the voting processes. Specifically, the laws which were passed in this case are out-dated and have no bearing upon private intellectual property. In other words, this case should have never been before a court.

As for the public interest, is it ever in the public's interest for a corporation to be forced to spend its money on lawsuits and settlements? Certainly not and even more so when the country has fallen into recession and a large corporation such as Microsoft is forced to take its finances out from the private sector and place it into the hands of the government where it will not be used properly. Case in point, the Tobacco settlement. Large sums of money went to multiple different states, many of them claiming that it was money ear-marked for their Education programs in an attempt to persuade the "public's interest". Now that they have the money, it has been spent on a multitude of wasteful programs and in only a few cases has there been distributions to the educational programs.

Please let the Free Market decide what companies should be punished for hurting the public. It is very clear that consumer spending can make a difference.

Sincerely,

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